

CPYRGHT

## AEC Aide Pulled From Potomac

Washington, Feb. 4 (AP)— Dr.

Paul C. Aebersold, 54, an Atomic Energy Commission scientist, was saved from drowning today by four soldiers who saw him plunge from Key Bridge into the ice-coated Potomac River.

Aebersold, a Chevy Chase, Md., resident and director of the Office of Isotope Development for the AEC, was pulled from the river at about 11:10 A.M.

Earlier in the day he apparently had attended a Shoreham Hotel prayer breakfast at which President Johnson was present, police said. They found an invitation and a program for the breakfast in the scientist's pocket.

Dr. Aebersold was taken to George Washington University Hospital in undetermined condition suffering from exposure, cuts and bruises and possible fractures.

Sgt. 1.C. Fred G. Andrews was crossing the bridge in an Army bus with three soldiers who had been taking bus driving lessons. They saw the man climb the railing and plunge into the river. He fell about 90 feet and crashed through thin ice.

The soldiers stopped the bus, got out, ran to a boathouse, rushed a rowboat to the edge of the ice and brought the man ashore.

An AEC spokesman said Aebersold had been associated with the Manhattan Project during the development of the atomic bomb. From 1946 to 1956, he was director of the Division of Isotopes at Oak Ridge, Tenn.